

MAR 20 2006

1. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a user-interactive, multi-device, audio-video system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech, the method comprising:

~~wherein~~ in the presence of a plurality of devices, each including a functionally separate speech recognizing facility, and echo canceling facility, ~~the method includes a step of~~ driving each echo canceling facility to combine each facility's functional ability for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities, and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of combining includes arranging each echo canceling facility in series.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series arrangement feeds each speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series feeds each various speech recognizing facility in a distributed manner.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of combining centralizes said echo canceling facilities, and feeds each facility comprising the speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of combining centralizes each facility comprising said echo canceling facilities, and each facility comprising said speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of combining arranges that each echo canceling facility comprising said echo-canceling facilities is disposed within a centralized control device, and feeds each selected speech recognizing facility comprising the speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

8. (Previously Presented) A multi-device, audio-video system that contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,
wherein in the presence of a plurality of devices, each separate device including a functionally separate speech recognizing facility, wherein each echo canceling facility is arranged to combine its echo canceling ability using joint canceling means for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities, and combining means for combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means include a serial arrangement that arranges each selected echo-canceling facility in series.

10. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement feeds the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement feeds various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

12. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said combining means includes that said echo canceling facilities are centralized in a control device, and are arranged for feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.

13. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said combining means are arranged to centralize said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said combining means centralize each selected echo canceling facility and feeds each selected speech recognizing facility in parallel.

15. (Previously Presented) A speech enhanced device for use in a multi-device audio-video system having speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the device as user speech, comprising:

speech input/output means interposed between said speech recognizing and echo canceling facilities, for intercoupling another speech-enhanced device.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

control means for selectively disabling one of:

speech-recognizing facilities, echo canceling facilities and audio output facilities of the device.

17. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

microphone out means, and

control means for selectively controlling one or more of said speech recognizing facilities, said echo-canceling facilities, and said input/output means.